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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF
GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED
DEMOCRACIES

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 9 September 1997 from the representatives
of Armenia and the Russian Federation to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance (annex I) and of a joint statement by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia (annex II), signed in Moscow on 29 August 1997 by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, and the President of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Levon H. Ter-Petrossian.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 38 and 81 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) M. ABELIAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Armenia
to the United Nations

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.



ANNEX I

Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of
Armenia on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance
signed in Moscow on 29 August 1997

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia,

Convinced that the unswerving development and strengthening of relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation between them is consonant with the vital interests of the peoples of both States and will be the best way to promote their all-round development and prosperity,

Guided by the closeness of their cultures, the age-old traditions of spiritual contact and the ties of friendship between their peoples,

Reaffirming their commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and other instruments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and other universally recognized norms of international law,

Desiring to cooperate within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and firmly resolved in keeping with the purposes and principles contained in the documents signed by both States within the framework of CIS to comply with the commitments arising from their participation therein and particularly the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992,

Considering that the historical destiny and prosperity of both States is indissolubly linked to the strengthening of peace, security and stability in the Transcaucasus region and throughout the world,

Taking into account the importance of coordinated action by the two States on the international stage with regard to the most momentous questions of mutual interest,

Desiring to facilitate for that purpose the deepening of cooperation in the military, political, economic and cultural areas,

Reaffirming their commitment to compliance with universally recognized international human rights norms,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The High Contracting Parties shall make every effort to strengthen traditional ties of friendship and all-round cooperation between the two States in the political, economic, military, scientific, cultural and other areas.

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They shall abide strictly by the principles of mutual respect for their State sovereignty and independence, equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, non-use of force or threat of force, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, conscientious fulfilment of their international obligations, and other universally recognized norms of international law.

Article 2

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate closely with each other to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity and ensure the security of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia. They shall consult each other without delay whenever either of them considers that it is under threat of armed attack in order to ensure joint defence and maintain peace and mutual security. The necessity, nature and extent of the assistance which one High Contracting Party shall render to the other High Contracting Party with a view to helping to overcome the situation which has arisen shall be determined during these consultations.

Article 3

The High Contracting Parties shall jointly take all measures at their disposal to obviate a threat to peace or a breach of the peace, or to oppose acts of aggression directed against them by any State or group of States, and shall render each other the necessary assistance, including military assistance, in exercise of the right of collective self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 4

The High Contracting Parties, while independently deciding on matters of national security and military organizational development, shall engage in close cooperation in these areas and determine forms of interaction on the basis of this Treaty, the bilateral Treaty of 16 March 1995 on the Russian military base in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, and other relevant agreements.

The High Contracting Parties shall expand cooperation between their national armed forces. In the event of a threat to the security of one of the Parties or an armed attack on one of them, the High Contracting Parties shall proceed from the principle of reciprocal use of military facilities and installations on terms established for the national armed forces, and also of joint operation of defence installations.

The High Contracting Parties shall work together to pursue a military-technical policy and cooperation in military production based on standardization of armaments, including funding of joint military programmes.

The High Contracting Parties shall also cooperate on policy with regard to the export and import of military technologies and weapons, while complying with the established international rules.

Article 5

The borders of the Republic of Armenia with non-member States of CIS shall be safeguarded through the joint efforts of the High Contracting Parties on the basis of the relevant agreements between them, their own security interests and the collective security interests of CIS.

Article 6

The High Contracting Parties shall continue to work together closely in the area of foreign policy and to cooperate with a view to strengthening peace and improving stability and security in the Transcaucasus region and throughout the world. They shall promote the continuation of the disarmament process, take measures to strengthen confidence and security, and develop mechanisms and institutions that strengthen the peace-keeping role of the United Nations, OSCE, and CIS. The High Contracting Parties shall also endeavour to promote the settlement of regional conflicts and other situations that affect their interests.

The High Contracting Parties shall jointly seek to improve the situation and ensure peace and security in the Transcaucasus region and throughout the world and shall, inter alia, hold consultations on international issues of common interest with a view to taking coordinated action where necessary.

Article 7

The High Contracting Parties undertake to refrain from participating in any actions or measures, and also alliances and blocs, which are directed against the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the other High Contracting Party, nor shall they allow their territory to be used for the purposes of aggression or other forcible actions against the other High Contracting Party.

Each High Contracting Party shall prohibit and suppress the establishment and operation in its territory of organizations and groups, and activities of individuals, directed against the State sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the other High Contracting Party.

Article 8

Each High Contracting Party shall guarantee nationals of the other High Contracting Party the rights and freedoms of the individual, and shall not allow any forms of discrimination on ethnic grounds, nor on the basis of sex, language, religion, or political or other convictions in accordance with the

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universally recognized norms of international law. These citizens' freedom of movement and their right of residence, as well as their right to work and to acquire property in both States in accordance with each Party's legislation, shall be guaranteed.

The High Contracting Parties shall conclude separate agreements guaranteeing and protecting the rights of their nationals permanently resident in the territory of the other Party.

Article 9

The High Contracting Parties shall develop equal and mutually advantageous cooperation in the political, trade and economic, scientific and technical, humanitarian and other areas.

In addition to the above-mentioned areas, priority shall be given to cooperation in the implementation of various initiatives in international organizations which are not in conflict with the interests of the High Contracting Parties; cooperation in safeguarding human rights in accordance with the basic international instruments; cooperation in the field of environmental protection; and cooperation to combat organized crime, terrorism and drug-trafficking.

The High Contracting Parties shall conclude separate cooperation agreements on these and other questions of mutual interest.

Article 10

The legal regime of State property and property of juridical persons and nationals of one High Contracting Party situated in the territory of the other High Contracting Party shall be regulated on the basis of the multilateral agreements in force and the legislation of the Party in which such property is situated, unless subsequently otherwise provided in corresponding bilateral agreements between the High Contracting Parties.

If one of the High Contracting Parties claims ownership to property situated in the territory of the other High Contracting Party which is also claimed by third parties or States, the other Party shall take all the necessary measures to protect and preserve such property until the question of its ownership is finally settled.

Article 11

The High Contracting Parties, attaching importance to stable development and the effective exploitation of the economic potential of both States, shall cooperate in implementing the ongoing economic reforms on the basis of market relations, promote the intensification of economic integration between the two States, and create conditions for the establishment of a common economic space in accordance with their obligations under bilateral and multilateral treaties

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and agreements concluded by the High Contracting Parties within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

To this end the High Contracting Parties shall endeavour to coordinate their activities in implementing their financial, credit and monetary, foreign exchange, tax, customs and social policies.

The High Contracting Parties shall inform each other in timely fashion of economic decisions that may affect the rights and interests of the other High Contracting Party.

Article 12

The High Contracting Parties shall promote the development of relations at all levels in the areas of trade, the economy and science and technology and the creation in their territory of conditions favourable to the activities of enterprises and entrepreneurs of the other Party in such areas as direct investment and investment protection, and shall facilitate the establishment of joint financial-industrial groups and the creation and operation of transnational associations, as well as other progressive forms of cooperation.

The Parties shall promote the maintenance and development, on a mutually advantageous basis, of productive and scientific and technological cooperation between economic agents, particularly in the development and production of modern goods employing advanced technology, including items for defence needs, through, inter alia, the formulation of comprehensive inter-State and intersectoral cooperation programmes.

Article 13

The High Contracting Parties shall take measures to ensure the convertibility of their national currencies and maintain their stability and develop their national currency markets, and shall agree on the procedure for determining the rate of exchange of their currencies.

Article 14

The High Contracting Parties shall expand cooperation in the development of their national systems of transport and communication, telecommunications and data processing, and shall facilitate the maintenance and rational utilization of the complexes and single systems in use in these areas.

The carriage of goods and passengers by rail, air, road, sea and river transport between the two States and through their territories, including the use of relevant ports and stations as well as major pipelines, electricity supply networks and communication links situated in the territory of the Parties, shall be conducted on mutually advantageous terms, in accordance with procedures specified in separate agreements.

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The High Contracting Parties shall develop cooperation in the area of fuel and energy, through, inter alia, the joint production and transport of energy sources. To this end the Parties shall promote the establishment of joint companies.

Article 15

Recognizing the primordial role of cooperation in the area of science and technology, the High Contracting Parties shall take all measures to create a common scientific and technological space with a view to more rational use of the intellectual, scientific and technological potential of the two States.

The Parties shall cooperate in the areas of fundamental and applied science, including industrial research, joint use of the achievements of modern science and technology, in accordance with their legislation and their international obligations in the field of intellectual and industrial property.

The Parties shall promote the intensification of contacts between their national academies and other scientific institutions, develop a joint infrastructure that will ensure the introduction of innovations, promote the establishment and operation of joint scientific production collectives, design and set up a common information network in the field of science and technology, encourage the carrying out of joint programmes and projects and exchanges of experience between scientists, specialists and experts, and create favourable conditions for the training of scientific personnel.

Article 16

The High Contracting Parties shall take all steps to promote the further development of cooperation in the humanitarian sphere, strengthen ties in various cultural fields, and facilitate the broadening of commercial contacts between trade unions and associations, cultural institutions and figures in literature and the arts at all levels.

Taking into account the historical role played by the Russian language in relations between the Russian and Armenian peoples, the Armenian side shall create conditions for more intensive study of the Russian language within the educational system of the Republic of Armenia. The Russian side shall create conditions to meet the need for study of the Armenian language in the territory of the Russian Federation.

The Parties shall promote the establishment and operation of cultural centres and shall cooperate in the field of public education and in the training of personnel in the areas of culture, the press, information, tourism and sports.

Article 17

The High Contracting Parties shall develop cooperation in the areas of public health, epidemiological monitoring, labour protection, social protection and pensions.

Article 18

The provisions of this Treaty shall not affect the rights or obligations of the High Contracting Parties under other international treaties to which they are parties.

Article 19

Disputes concerning the interpretation and application of this Treaty shall be settled through consultations and negotiations between the High Contracting Parties.

Article 20

For the purposes of coordinating activities for the implementation of the provisions of this Treaty, the High Contracting Parties shall, where necessary, create joint consultative bodies through the conclusion of separate agreements.

Article 21

The High Contracting Parties shall promote the broadening of parliamentary links between them.

For the purposes of the implementation of this Treaty, the High Contracting Parties shall establish a standing interparliamentary commission on cooperation.

Article 22

This Treaty shall be subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification, which shall take place at Erevan.

Article 23

This Treaty shall be concluded for a period of 25 years and shall be automatically extended for successive periods of 10 years unless one of the High Contracting Parties notifies the other High Contracting Party in writing of its desire to terminate it at least one year prior to the expiry of the current period.

DONE at Moscow on 29 August 1997 in duplicate in the Russian and Armenian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Russian Federation
(Signed) B. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Armenia
(Signed) L. TER-PETROSSIAN

ANNEX II

Joint Russian-Armenian declaration signed in Moscow
on 29 August 1997

At the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, the President of Armenia, Mr. Levon H. Ter-Petrosian, made an official visit to the Russian Federation from 28 to 30 August 1997. The Presidents of the two friendly countries held a comprehensive exchange of views on all aspects of bilateral cooperation, including prospects for the further development of Russian-Armenian ties, and on the situation in and around Transcaucasia and on a broad range of international problems. The meeting of the two Presidents took place in an atmosphere of frankness, trust and mutual understanding.

The meetings and talks that were held during the visit confirmed the broad convergence of the interests of the two States in the political, military and strategic and economic fields, and the similarity of their approaches to global and regional problems. These meetings and talks clearly demonstrated the desire of the Russian Federation and Armenia to strengthen the traditional relations of close friendship and all-round cooperation and to preserve and increase everything positive that for centuries has drawn our peoples together and united them.

1. The Presidents stressed that relations between the Russian Federation and Armenia as sovereign and equal States will grow increasingly stronger and develop in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the objectives and principles of, and the obligations arising from membership in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and on the basis of the universally recognized principles and norms of international law. Over the past few years, the dynamics of bilateral cooperation has made it possible to upgrade these relations to the level of a strategic partnership.

Expressing the will of the peoples of the Russian Federation and Armenia to join efforts to maintain peace, strengthen security and promote the prosperity of the two States, Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Ter-Petrosian signed the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, which will become the basic legal instrument governing relations between the Russian Federation and Armenia. The Treaty is in keeping with the long-term and vital interests of the two countries and will further strengthen confidence and broaden all-round cooperation between them.

During the visit, the Russian Federation and Armenia also signed the Treaty on the legal status of citizens of the Republic of Armenia who are permanently resident in the territory of the Russian Federation, and of citizens of the Russian Federation who are permanently resident in the territory of the Republic of Armenia; the Agreement on questions of jurisdiction and mutual legal assistance in matters relating to the presence of the Russian military base in the territory of the Republic of Armenia; the Agreement on conditions for establishing and operating a Russian-Armenian university in Erevan; and a number of other intergovernmental agreements.

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The Russian Federation and Armenia will support each other's efforts to continue and intensify the democratic transformations and market reforms that they are carrying out in accordance with their independently formulated programmes that take account of the specific characteristics of each country.

2. The heads of the two States noted the concurrence and similarity of their positions on key international issues and reaffirmed their desire to continue to cooperate closely in the area of foreign policy, including in the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Presidents noted that the end of the cold war and the beginning of the post-confrontational period signifies a transition from a bipolar to a multipolar world. This multipolar world is being created through the common efforts of all States, both large and small. It must become safe, stable and interdependent. The sides emphasized that there should be no recurrence of bloc politics or attempts to re-erect dividing walls.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Ter-Petrossian called for the strengthening of the United Nations as the cornerstone of a system for consolidating peace, security and international cooperation, and the enhancement of its efficiency and effectiveness in the light of new conditions. In the opinion of the Presidents, the implementation of a mutually acceptable plan for adapting the United Nations system will facilitate progress towards these goals. At the same time, in reforming the Organization it is important not to lose sight of its achievements over half a century in the interests of international peace and security, and to increase its positive contribution to the solution of world problems.

The Presidents note the particular importance of the work on a charter of European security being done by OSCE on the basis of a decision adopted at the Lisbon Summit of that organization; the charter is an instrument the importance of which may be compared with that of the Helsinki Final Act. The charter should become the basis of a new security system that would reliably guarantee the security interests of all States. The Presidents believe that OSCE can play a central role in safeguarding security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region. In this regard, they are in favour of further strengthening OSCE as a universal all-European organization, including the establishment of its own legal basis, and of granting OSCE a coordinating role with respect to other associations and groups concerned with issues of European security.

Considering the need for creating a single security area in Europe, Mr. Yeltsin reiterated his opposition to plans for expanding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The Presidents noted the importance of the signing of the Founding Act between NATO and the Russian Federation as a contribution to the strengthening of security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic region.

The Presidents of the two countries expressed their readiness to intensify their interaction with the European Union. The Russian Federation and Armenia reaffirm their intention to integrate their countries into the European and world economies.

The Russian Federation supports Armenia's desire to become a full member of the Council of Europe. The Presidents reaffirm their countries' commitment to

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the generally accepted standards in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The forthcoming summit of the Council of Europe in October 1997 should adopt important decisions aimed at strengthening democratic security and social stability in Europe.

The Russian Federation and Armenia reaffirm their intention to work actively in conjunction with other States to adapt the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe in order to enhance its viability and its effectiveness in ensuring equal security for all parties to the Treaty in the light of the current military and political situation in Europe.

3. As the heads of two of the countries that founded the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Russian Federation and Armenia declare their firm commitment to its purposes and principles. They will purposefully promote the strengthening and effectiveness of the Commonwealth and the optimum use of its potential, which today is being underutilized.

They noted with satisfaction that the Commonwealth of Independent States is being increasingly recognized as a regional organization in the world arena, and that it cooperates actively with the United Nations, OSCE and other regional associations.

The Presidents welcome the intensification of mutual contacts and good-neighbourly cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth on a multilateral and bilateral basis. They believe that strengthening the integration processes within the Commonwealth is in keeping with the objective requirements for its development. These processes should not be artificially accelerated or restrained. The final word here rests with its member States, each of which independently determines for itself the most appropriate forms of integration.

4. Viewing Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) as an important aspect of their countries' foreign policy, the Presidents emphasized their readiness to transform BSEC into a full-scale economic cooperation organization of the countries of the region, as agreed at the Moscow meeting of heads of State and Government of the countries participating in BSEC.

Mutual interest was expressed in the early launching of a Black Sea trade and development bank, and also in investment and trade and economic projects involving BSEC. The parties expressed their conviction that Armenia's forthcoming chairmanship of BSEC will give new impetus to the development of this promising mechanism for regional cooperation.

Mutual interest was also shown in the development of other forms of regional cooperation for the purpose of stimulating integration processes in the region.

5. Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Ter-Petrosian confirmed their countries' intention to give effect to the provisions of the Kislovodsk declaration entitled "For Inter-ethnic Accord, Peace and Economic and Cultural Cooperation in the Caucasus" adopted on 3 June 1996 at a meeting of the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and the Russian Federation in the presence of leaders of the northern

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Caucasian subjects of the Federation, and to consolidate the results of that meeting and its unique format.

After discussing in detail the problem of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, the Presidents emphasized the need for it to be comprehensively resolved exclusively by peaceful means on a just basis acceptable to all parties.

Mr. Yeltsin confirmed the appeal to the leaders of all parties to the conflict contained in the Declaration of the Presidents of the Russian Federation, United States of America and France in Denver, to demonstrate a positive approach and, on the basis of the unified proposals by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Conference of OSCE, to achieve an early settlement through negotiations.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian noted the contribution of the Russian Federation to bringing about the cease-fire agreement in Nagorny Karabakh, and commended the role and mediation efforts of the Minsk group of OSCE.

6. The Presidents attached priority to issues of the further development and strengthening of Russian-Armenian relations, and will pay constant attention to them. What is involved is giving practical effect to the provisions of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the Russian Federation and Armenia, signed in the course of the visit, progressively implementing the bilateral agreements that already exist, and further expanding the legal basis for cooperation in all fields.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Ter-Petrosian agreed to continue the political dialogue. Regular consultations, including consultations at the highest level, will be held on matters of mutual interest. The Presidents called for an expansion of contacts between representatives of the legislative and executive authorities, and also at the level of subjects of the Russian Federation and districts of Armenia.

The heads of State expressed unity of views on the problems of ensuring mutual security and protecting the outer border of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and call for the further development of cooperation in relation to military matters and military technology between the border forces of both countries on a long-term basis. The major role played by the Treaty on the Russian military base in Armenian territory of 16 March 1995 in the interests of strengthening their relation as allies was noted. They emphasized that that cooperation was not directed against third countries.

7. The Presidents attach fundamental importance to the development of stable long-term trade and economic links between the Russian Federation and Armenia, both at the inter-State level and at the level of enterprises under all forms of ownership, as well as in relation to the reciprocal attraction of investment.

It was noted that the current volumes of economic cooperation are not commensurate with the potential capabilities of the two countries, and need to be substantially increased. A major responsibility in this area rests with the Russian-Armenian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation.

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It was emphasized that over the whole range of economic, production and scientific and technical relations between the Russian Federation and Armenia, energy supply plays a strategic role. The most important subject of cooperation remains the Armenian nuclear power station. The Presidents welcomed the signature during the visit of documents between the Government of Armenia and the Russian corporation Gazprom on the establishment of a joint enterprise to supply gas to Armenia and construct a gas pipeline between the Russian Federation and Turkey through Armenian territory.

Promising directions of cooperation of development of cooperative links in the mining and metallurgical, chemical and jewellery industries and light industry, mechanical engineering, building materials production, military industrial complexes and agro-industry complexes; the establishment of inter-State industrial and financial groups and joint enterprises; cooperation between transport department; harmonization of the actions of the banking systems of Armenia and the Russian Federation; and other joint actions taken in the light of the mutual economic interests of the two countries.

The Presidents noted with satisfaction the strengthening of contacts between business circles in the Russian Federation and Armenia, and support their initiative for the holding in Erevan in the autumn of 1997 of a representative bilateral business forum.

The most valuable possession of the Russian and Armenian peoples is the spiritual and cultural closeness that has developed between them over the course of history. The Presidents are fully resolved to promote the strengthening of Russian-Armenian contacts in the field of culture, science, education, tourism, sport and information and to encourage contacts between people and social organizations.

A major event will be the opening in Erevan in 1998 of the Russian-Armenian University. The necessary conditions will be created for in-depth study of the Russian language in Armenia and the Armenian language in the Russian Federation.

Agreement was reached regarding the opening of a Russian information and cultural centre in Erevan and an Armenian one in Moscow.

The Presidents confirmed that the parties will reliably guarantee to nationals of the other party resident in their territory rights and freedoms in conformity with international law, the multilateral agreements to which they are parties and agreements between them.

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The President of Armenia, Mr. L. A. Ter-Petrossian, invited the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. B. L. Yeltsin, to visit Armenia on a State visit. The invitation was gratefully accepted. The timing of the visit will be agreed upon in due course.

B. YELTSIN
President of the Russian Federation
Moscow, 29 August 1997

L. TER-PETROSSIAN
President of Armenia